GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7304
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
IVORY TRADE
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for a complete ban on ivory trade;

(b) whether the issues ranged from poaching and the threat to elephants to ignorance of the consumer;

(c) whether Wild Life Experts say that Indian ivory in the International Market is considered much better;

(d) if so, the details regarding the demand alongwith the names of the countries; and

(e) the details regarding the earning of foreign exchange during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (e) Trade in Indian elephant ivory is totally banned since 1986. The consumers, specially in developed countries, use ivory as a status symbol. In the opinion of wild life experts, Indian ivory is considered to be of better quality.

As the `trade` in ivory is banned since 1986, the question of earning any foreign exchange, on account of this, in last three years does not arise.